



Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services

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Randall W. Williams, MD, FACOG
Director



Michael L. Parson
Governor

April 3, 2020

Dear LPHA Administrator and MCH Partner:

We understand the current MCH Services contract requirement to expend a minimum of 75% of contract funding on implementing your approved FFY2019-2021 contract work plan may be creating programmatic challenges as you shift your efforts to local COVID-19 response activities. In an effort to support your continually evolving needs as you anticipate and respond to the significant impact of COVID-19 in your community and as allowed by the Maternal Child Health Bureau (MCHB) of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), **retroactively effective March 1, 2020**, we are waiving the contract requirement to expend a minimum of 75% of contract funding on implementing your work plan and allowing the use of MCH Services contract funding to implement science-based approaches to respond to COVID-19 and address related MCH population needs. Potential approaches/responses may include:

- Epidemiological activities related to outbreak investigation.
- Educating the MCH population about COVID-19 through partnerships with other public health partners, community agencies, medical providers, and health care organizations.
- Working with local, regional, and/or state emergency preparedness staff to assure the needs of the MCH population are represented in emergency planning and response.
- Funding infrastructure to support the response to COVID-19. For example, Public Health Nurses who are routinely supported through the MCH Services contract may be mobilized to support a call center, conduct case investigation and/or monitoring, or deliver health services.
- Partnering with parent networks, health care providers, and other state agencies to provide accurate and reliable information to all families.
- Engaging community leaders, including faith-based leaders, to educate community members about strategies for preventing illness.

As long as the expenditure of MCH Services contract funds is in accordance with all other contract funding provisions and the above guidance, you do not need to seek prior approval to use contract funds to cover expenses related to local COVID-19 response activities. For activities serving populations broader than MCH, MCH Services contract funds should only be used to cover a percentage of the costs equivalent to the percentage of the population served that is part of the MCH population. Contractors will continue to be expected to work with the local community to address the priority MCH issue(s) through the FFY 2019-2021 work plan, and the FFY 2020 Year End Report shall include a descriptive summary of progress to achieve the work plan activities and system outcomes and an annual financial report on the use of contract funding, including a detailed report of all invoiced expenditures related COVID-19 response. Additional detailed guidance regarding invoice submission and reporting requirements for COVID-19 expenditures will be provided by the MCH Services Program.

Please let me know if there are questions/needs related to the COVID-19 response for which additional assistance/guidance would be helpful. Thank you for your ongoing partnership and efforts as we navigate the uncertain path ahead.

Sincerely,

Martha Smith, MSN, RN
Title V MCH Director

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